GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1296
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Education in Remote/Backward Areas
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is inadequate provisions made for education of children in backward areas of the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government proposes any special scheme/drive to impart free education to the poor children particularly in remote/ backward/border/tribal areas and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including West Bengal;
(c) whether the Government has identified special focus districts in all the States for increasing quality of education to the children in said areas particularly belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government proposes any orientation programmes for regular and contractual teachers regarding language and culture of Scheduled Tribes in tribal areas and if so, the details thereof;
(e) whether the Government had formulated any plan to open model schools to provide qualitative education to poor children in the backward areas and if so, the details thereof along with the number of model schools opened as of now, State/UT-wise; and
(f) whether the Government is formulating any plan to stop the drop out rate of poor children and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a): No, Madam.
(b): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides a legal entitlement to every child of the age of six to fourteen years for free and compulsory elementary education in a neighbourhood school. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is the designated scheme for meeting the objective of RTE Act, 2009, provides assistance to State Governments and UT Administrations for universalization of elementary education in the country. Statewise details of release of funds under SSA to States and UTs including West Bengal in the last three years are at Annexure-I.
(c): Under the SSA, the districts with high concentration of population of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Muslims have been identified as Special Focus Districts (SFDs). One of the criteria for identifying the SFDs is 25% and above population of SCs and STs in a particular district, 61 SC-SFDs and 109 ST-SFDs have been identified under SSA. State/UT-wise details of these SFDs are at Annexure-II.
(d): The Central Government provides financial assistance to States and UTs under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), with a focus on improving quality of education at elementary and secondary level. Under these programmes funding is provided to States and UTs for professional development of teachers through in-service training, grant of Teaching Learning Material, training in multilingual education and sensitization of teachers to tribal cultures and practices. Under SSA, emphasis has been laid on States and UTs to recruit teachers from similar social and cultural backgrounds and provision of curricula and textbooks that are not alienating for tribal children.
(e): The earlier Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Model School Scheme envisaged setting up of one model school per block as a benchmark of excellence at the block level. The scheme had two modes of implementation, viz. (i) setting up of schools in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) through State/UT Governments, and (ii) the remaining schools under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in blocks which are not educationally backward. The scheme has been delinked from the support of the Government of India with effect from 2015-16 and stands transferred to States/UTs in the light of higher devolution of funds to States as envisaged by the 14th Finance Commission. Till 31.3.2015, a total of 2329 Model Schools were sanctioned in the States, details of which are given at Annexure-III.
(f): SSA programme provides a number of incentives to encourage enrolment and retention and to reduce the out of school or dropout children in schools. These include enhancing access to primary, upper primary schools, strengthening school infrastructure like school building, additional classrooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc., improving the teacher pupil ratio as well as strategies for gender positive textbooks, gender sensitization of teachers and educational administrators. Since inception of SSA in 2001 till 31.3.2016, opening of 2.04 lakh new primary schools and 1.59 lakh new upper primary schools;

and construction of 18.61 lakh additional classrooms have been sanctioned to States and UTs to enable the States to provide access to elementary education. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalized girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled. The Mid-day Meal programme is implemented in elementary schools, to help retain children in schools.

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